

# THE CONTINENTAL JOURNAL, AND WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1776.

[NUMB. XVI.]

BOSTON: PRINTED BY JOHN GILL, IN QUEEN-STREET.

The following account of the defection of the town of Falmouth on the 18th of October 1775, was sent to Messrs Samuel and Ebenezer Hall, printers at Cambridge, some time in January last, in order to be inserted in their paper; but soon after one of the printers dying and the other being confined a long time by sickness, it could not have a place in that paper as was intended; and having been mislaid ever since, was the reason of its not making its appearance before now. It being of importance to the unhappy sufferers of that town, that the world should be made acquainted with a true state of that inhuman act, it is now given to the public.

FALMOUTH, January 15, 1776.

**L**AST March one Capt. Coulson, who had been for two or three years an inhabitant and trader in this town, imported from Great-Britain a quantity of sails and rigging. He immediately applied to the committee of inspection for leave to use them, in preparing a ship he had launched for her voyage to England. The committee judged it would be a breach of the Continental Association, and refused to give him liberty, though they thought the case was hard, and would gladly have conferred the association in his favour; but he grew angry, and bade defiance to committee and confederates. However, under the pretence of going to the Provincial Congress for leave to rig, he went and obtained the Canoe of Capt. Mowett, which arrived about the beginning of April, and under her protection rigged his new ship.

On the ninth day of May Capt. Mowett fell into the hands of Lieut. Col. Thompson and company, who had lain in wait for him; but by the earnest solicitation of some gentlemen among us, as the navy of Britain had not then commenced any hostilities against any part of the continent, and as we expected several provision vessels to arrive soon, which we stood in great need of, he was persuaded to let him at liberty, the said Mowett promising to deliver himself up the next day, which promise he did not think proper to fulfil. A day or two after, without any affront or injury being offered him by the town, Capt. Mowett sent us a letter, threatening to fire upon the town, if we would not by force expell Col. Thompson and his company. Instead of regarding it, the town treated Col. Thompson with civility, and his men were visited at the expense of persons in this town, as long as they pleased to tarry with us; the town excusing as a consequence of it, for two or three days to be cannonaded. In which time the inhabitants were at great expense and trouble in removing themselves and effects into the back settlements.

Soon after this one Mr. Crandell was taken into custody by Admiral Greaves; and after he was liberated, reported, that the Admiral enquired of him whether Capt. Coulson had loaded? To which he answered in the negative; and that the Admiral then said, If that town prevents his loading, I will lay it either, or to that purpose. This report was but little attended to at the time, in the said Mr. Crandell was but little known in this place. But since the confiscation we have obtained from him the following deposition.

**I PHILIP CRANDELL**, of Harpwell, in the county of Cumberland, and province of Massachusetts-Bay, being of lawful age, do testify and say, That some time in the month of June last, I sailed from Harpwell for Salem, and upon my passage there, I the deponent was forcibly taken by an armed vessel, and carried into Boston; and being in the presence of Admiral Greaves, he asked me if such a man of war (he named her, but I forgot her name) had arrived at Falmouth? I answered that I heard he had. He then asked me if I thought she would be opposed by the people? I replied I could not tell. He then asked me if Capt. Coulson was loading at Falmouth? I answered that I had heard he met with such opposition from the people as to prevent it. Upon which the Admiral said you may tell them, if they will let him load, that I will send a ship or ships, and beat the town down about their ears. I then told the Admiral, that Capt. Coulson's being prevented loading was not owing to the inhabitants of Falmouth-neck, but to the country people. I do not remember that the Admiral made any reply, or said any thing further relative to Falmouth or Capt. Coulson. And further I the deponent say not.

**CUMBERLAND R. Harpwell, Jan. 3, A.D. 1776.**  
THEN the above named Philip Crandell, personally appeared and made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition by him subscribed, before me,

**WILLIAM SYLVESTER**, juft. pacis.

Mr. Crandell's mistake in thinking Capt. Coulson's being prevented loading was not owing to the inhabitants of Falmouth-neck, will appear by and by. Capt. Mowett, deposing as we suppose of being able to protect Capt.

Coulson, went away with him to Portsmouth. Capt. Coulson returned the 7th day of June in his ship, together with the sloop, Capt. Dodington. The same day or the day following, a party of the inhabitants of the neck, by the direction of the town's committee, and in compliance with a resolve of the Provincial Congress, to prevent Tories carrying their effects out of the country, seized a number of masts, which the said Coulson was just ready to take in and towed them up a river, to a place where neither Coulson nor Dodington dared to go after them.

Nothing further happened that we can recollect, that has any connection with the destruction of the town, excepting our generally obeying the authority of Congress, until Monday the 16th day of October last: When Capt. Mowett in the Canoe, with another larger ship, called the Car, a large schooner, and a small sloop, all armed with cannon, arrived in our harbour, and anchored down by the islands, a league from the town. At the town perceived it was Capt. Mowett, by whom they had been before threatened, and knew him to have great reason to be bound in gratitude to several gentlemen in it, it was the less alarmed. But supposing him to be in quest of cattle and provisions, the Committee sent the greater part of Capt. Noyes's men, and some of Capt. Knight's to guard the islands, where there were large flocks of cattle and quantities of hay. The next day, being Tuesday, we saw the fleet warping up towards the town, as the wind did not favour them: And about 4 o'clock, P. M. they anchored in a line close to the town. Though the public has been told, that Capt. Mowett came ashore at this time, it is not true. He sent a messenger with a flag, who delivered the following letter:

*Canoe, Falmouth, October 16th, 1775. (1)*

**A**FTER so many premeditated attacks on the prerogative of the best of sovereigns, after the repeated instances you have experienced in Britain's long forbearance of the rod of correction, and the manifest and paternal extension of her hands to embrace again and again, have been regarded as vain and nugatory; and in place of a dutiful and grateful return to your king and parent state, you have been guilty of the most unpardonable rebellion, supported by the ambition of a few designing men, whose insidious views have cruelly imposed on the credulity of their fellow creatures; and at last have brought the whole into the same dilemma; which leads me to feel not a little, the woes of the innocent of them in particular, from my having it in orders to execute a just punishment on the town of Falmouth, in the name of which authority, I previously warn you to remove without delay, the human specie out of the said town, for which purpose I give you the time of two hours, at the period of which, a red pendant will be hoisted at the main top gallant mast head, with a gun. But should your impudence lead you to show the least resistance, you will in that case see me of that humanity so strongly pointed out in my orders, as well as in my inclination. I do all observe, that all those who did on a former occasion fly to the king's ship under my command, for protection, that the same door is now open to receive them.

The officer who will deliver this letter, I expect to return immediately unopposed. I am, &c.

**H. MOWETT. (1)**

The town met immediately, and appointed the honorable Jedediah Preble, Esq. Dr. Nathaniel Coffin, and Mr. Robert Pagan, a Committee to wait upon Capt. Mowett, to know of him in general the meaning of his letter, and the reasons for the threatnings therein contained. The Committee acted accordingly, and have testified as follows:

Capt. Mowett informed us that his orders from the Admiral did not authorize him to give any warning to the inhabitants; but that they required him to come opposite the town with all possible expedition, and there burn, sink and destroy: And that he had taken upon him to give this warning at the risk of his commission. He further told us, that these orders did not respect this town only, but also all the sea-port towns upon the continent. We then expostulated with him upon the severity of such orders, and entreated that, if possible, some method might be fallen upon to save the town; or at least to give the inhabitants an opportunity of removing some of their effects, &c. upon which he said, if the inhabitants would, in the morning by 8 o'clock, deliver up four pieces of cannon, which were in the town, with their arms in general, and ammunition, he would in that case do no hurt to the town, until he had dispatched an express to the Admiral, who, he did not doubt, would order him to save the town. And as a token that his demand would be complied with, he required that eight arms should be delivered up by 8 o'clock that eve-

ning, which should be the condition of the town's being safe till 8 o'clock next morning. We told him we were pretty certain these demands would not be complied with; but that in discharge of the trust reposed in us we must inform the town of his demands. Upon this we went to the County House, and acquainted our constituents with the terms above mentioned, who disapproved of delivering up the cannon or their arms. But that they might have an opportunity of removing the sick, with the women and children, and as many of their effects as possible, they ordered the eight arms to be sent on board, and desired us to inform Capt. Mowett that the town would meet early in the morning, and send him an answer by 8 o'clock. The town accordingly met in the morning, and resolved by no means to deliver up the cannon, or their arms, and sent us with this message, at the same time desiring us to endeavour to prolong the time on board as long as possible, that more effects might be removed. We went on board with this message, and staid till half past 8 o'clock, when we were desired to go ashore, and Capt. Mowett, at our request, gave us half an hour longer to get out of the way ourselves: At the expiration of which time the firing upon the town began.

**JEDEDIAH PREBLE,  
ROBERT PAGAN,  
NATHANIEL COFFIN.**

It was about 9 o'clock on Wednesday, being the 18th of October, that the firing began from all the above mentioned vessels with all possible briskness, discharging on every part of the town, which lay on a regular descent towards the harbour, an horrible shower of balls from three to nine pounds weight, bombs, case shot, live shells, grape shot and musket balls. The firing lasted without many minutes cessation, until about 6 o'clock, P. M. during which time several parties came ashore and set buildings on fire by hand. Parties of our people and others from the neighbouring towns, ran down to oppose them, and it is thought killed several. One officer after he fell was stripped of a neat pair of shoes, his flask and cockade. Through the goodness of God no life was lost on our side; and only one man wounded, viz. Mr. Rheuben Clough of this town. Had no opposition been made, we do not believe they would have left one building standing. A more opposition would have been made, had not the people's attention been taking up in securing their off-shoots, which it was very unfortunate that our companies of 100 men were put under the direction of a Committee; for they did not, and we suppose could not, get together in the hurry of affairs; and therefore could give no authoritative directions.

As near as we can judge about three quarters of the buildings, reckoning according to their value are consumed, consisting of about 130 dwelling houses; many of which held two or three families apiece, besides barns, and almost every store and warehouse in town. St. Paul's Church, a large new building with the bell; a very elegant and costly new Court House, not quite finished; a fine Engine, almost new; the old Town-House, and the public Library were all consumed. But ere or two wharves have escaped the flames; and every vessel in the harbour of any considerable burden was burnt, excepting two, which the enemy carried away with them.

The warning given was so short that but few teams could be procured to remove the goods out, much was carried out by hand; but as far as we can learn, not much more than half of the moveables were saved out of the buildings that were burnt. All the compass part of the town is gone; and among the hundred dwelling houses that are standing there are but few good buildings, and these damaged with balls passing through them, or bombs bursting. They are mostly the refuge of the town, and their owners do not generally inhabit them, as we are apprehensive our enemies will soon endeavour to seize so fine a harbour as ours, and to possess themselves of so advantageous a post as the remarkable eminence on our neck.

Our hearts ache for the misery in which a great part of our people are involved. The town was greatly impoverished before the final catastrophe, by the decay of navigation and trade, which were our sole means of support, so many have lost a part or the whole of their substance, that we conjecture not less than a hundred families must have suffered for want of necessities, unless relieved by charity. The settlements back of us are new and but little cultivated. The inhabitants are mostly poor, and have never yet been able to raise their own bread, so that much aims is not to be expected from them.

From this state of facts, it follows most evidently, in the first place, that the town of Falmouth was destroyed for no other reason, but because of its obedience

See pa. 825, 829. See pa. 606. & see indexes, under Committee, & Congress. & See index, under Congress Provincial. & see indexes, under Men of War. & see index, under Army of the United Colonies. & see index, under Congress Continental, & Provincial. (1) see this Letter, pa. 892, with the references. (2) see indexes under the same title. Boston, 1776.



(14) see pa. 754. (15) see pa. 881. (16) see pa. 721. & the substance of the Pirate Act, pa. 931. (18) see index under  
see. (17) see the Treaty, pa. 951. &c. & see Character of the Ministry, 1804. Crisis, pa. 749, &c.  
their (19) see Congress, pa. 656, 791. & their proceedings. (20) see index, under Speeches, & Debates in Commons House of  
page 905. (21) see experience, pa. 339. (22) see pa. 926. (23) see pa. 823. (24) see pa. 734. (25) see pa. 959.  
to the Continental and Provincial Congresses, and its at- petition.  
tachment to the cause of liberty and America. In the  
next place, that those who have seen it from us would  
well to minister something out of their abundance for  
the relief of our suffering poor, until it becomes pos-  
sible for them to get into time to support themselves, as  
we find with pleasure and gratitude, this province by  
its representatives have begun to do. (A)  
ENOCH FREEMAN, } Select-  
HUMPHREY MERRILL, } Men of the  
JOHN JOHNSON, } town of  
WILLIAM OWEN, } Falmouth.  
(If the other Printers in America, who can spare a Place  
for the foregoing Account, would insert it, they would  
undoubtedly much oblige the distressed Inhabitants of Falmouth.)

L O N D O N.  
TO THE PRINTER of the PUBLIC LEDGER.

I F the account of the burning of Falmouth is true, I  
shall blush when ever I recollect that I am an En-  
glishman. Is it possible to read that horrid recital with-  
out feeling our minds agitated by a mixture of pity,  
terror, shame, indignation and resentment? To burn a  
town thus in cold blood, to puff its every idea of savage  
barbarity and brutality. I want language to express my  
keen feelings. If I, who am an Englishman, uncon-  
nected with America, except by the ties which ought to  
bind fellow subjects, even not known to an American,  
am thus agitated by the contemplation of such an infernal  
crime, what effects must it have produced, in the breasts  
of those who saw their habitations smoking in ruins;  
of those who have been raised to a path of fury and  
mainence, not to be equalled in Bedlam. If we are to  
believe that account, the same inhuman cowardly re-  
venge, has involved the whole coast of America in one  
common ruin. Was that a way to promote the welfare  
of the Empire? Was that a way to conciliate their af-  
fections? Was it consistent with the bravery, the gen-  
tleness and humanity of the English nation? The Amer-  
icans will think it was the act of the English nation;  
but how unjust their supposition: The English nation  
recoil with horror from the views which even to their  
imagination is dreadful. They execrate the tyrants  
who commanded the shocking devastation, and  
what end could this inhuman measure be supposed to an-  
swer; did ministry imagine that the infliction of so  
cruel a calamity, was a likely way to bring the colonies  
into an acknowledgement of the power of parliament im-  
possible, feeling for their towns was the utmost they  
had to fear, and when the utmost had been done, which  
the most malignant tyrant heart could accomplish, could  
it be expected that men, whose rage had been excited by  
the most provoking injuries, would ever consent to grant  
to friends, what they refused to brethren. In what other  
light can they be supposed to view the ruins of their  
once flourishing cities, than as the vindictive efforts  
of feminine malice, disappointed in its attempts to conquer,  
having borne our aim at vengeance, vengeance that re-  
flects more shame on us than misery on them; can we  
be so devoid of imagination, that they will ever again  
consider England the country which gave birth to their  
ancestors, will they not teach their infant offspring to  
execrate our name, will they not rehearse the cruelties,  
and pointing to their stately ruins, bid them contemplate  
the works of Englishmen? But why do I trouble my-  
self with writing, or you with printing. This Empire is  
devoted to its fate, ministry have no regard to its inter-  
ests, and there is no virtue enough in England to save it from  
destruction, with but a very few exceptions, our great  
men are gamblers, spendthrifts and coxcombs, and our  
great women are whores, all ranks of men and wo-  
men, are intent only on their pleasures, living beyond  
their fortunes, and vying with each other who shall be  
most extravagant, and most abandoned. What fate can  
attend a country, which has thus put virtue, and even  
decency at defiance! what but contempt and ruin! D  
The Ghost of War.

Copy of a letter from a gentleman in Boston, to his friend  
in London.  
Nantasket Road, near the entrance of  
Boston Harbour, March 25, 1776.

"The Rebels having possession of the whole country  
near Boston, and most of the heights near the town, oc-  
cupied by them, and with their numbers it is in their  
power to throw up many works that would most effec-  
tually hem us in, on the night of the fifth, they  
erected two new and very strong redoubts, on Dorchester  
Neck, which would not only distress the troops and the  
inhabitants in the town, but would, if they pleased, dan-  
ger the king's ships in the harbour; there was an in-  
tention to attempt to dispossess them of that ground, and  
soon after were actually embarked for that purpose on  
board seven transports, four of which, and the artillery,  
fell down to the Castle, when the troops landed on the  
Neck; the horse was to have gone out through the lines  
at Roxbury, and the General had ordered another body  
of troops to land on Foker's Hill, a part of Dorchester,  
and directly opposite to, and within a very small distance  
of the lines at the entrance of the town. A very violent  
storm of wind and rain came on, which prevented any  
part of the plan being put into execution, except the em-  
barcation of the troops; a lucky circumstance, this, as  
they (the Rebels) had drawn all their forces to defend  
these redoubts, which had been made very strong: This  
work was framed of timber, at some distance in the town  
of Dorchester, and carried to the heights in pieces,  
the frame being double: The vacancy was filled with  
screwed hay: If this post had been taken, to have main-  
tained it, would have required a number of men; and  
the other heights near the town, and those which com-  
manded the passage to and from the garrison by water,  
would have required the General's doing something to  
make a safe passage between this place and Boston. The  
garrison and ships of war being thus circumstanced, and  
short of provisions, the army being obliged to the naval  
department for great part of their subsistence, it was  
thought proper by the General to evacuate the town of

Boston, and for want of a sufficient number of vessels  
to transport the troops, horses, &c. &c. recom-  
mended to those who were to embark, to take with them such  
of their effects only as they could possibly do with  
out; and we accordingly embarked on board the Heli-  
pont Victuals, with little more than necessaries for the  
voyage, leaving behind most of our furniture and valu-  
able effects. I had packed up much of what was in my  
house, in hopes that there might be room and opportu-  
nity to put it on board some vessel; but unfortunately  
the Heliport, on board which we were destined to em-  
bark, could not be unloaded before she got here, and of  
consequence no place to receive packages, the order for  
sailing was given the ninth, and we left the town the  
tenth; I with little more than necessaries for the voyage;  
the Heliport having no men belonging to her, nor any  
way fitted for sea, it required all my attention to forward  
her departure; and the morning that we let sail, there  
was not a single drop of water in the vessel, but what I  
myself got on board a few hours before the anchor was  
weighed. Several of the ships who attended the embark-  
ation of the troops, brought off more than one thousand  
persons. (6) Though this measure may add to the rebellious  
army, yet I think it will have a much better effect than  
the hazard there would be, waiting for a reinforcement,  
which must have been very considerable to maintain the  
garrison, and penetrate into the country, and dispossess  
the enemy of their several posts. The severe winter  
has brought many difficulties on this garrison, but had  
the masters of the transports been acquainted with this  
coast, most of them would have been avoided, and in  
the General's power to have made other dispositions of  
the army, than embarking them for Halifax. (7) Our first  
division is to sail to day, under convoy of the Boy; the  
remainder of the fleet in a few days. (8)  
The misfortunes in this country are owing to the  
base dispositions of many great men in England; they  
have not only countenanced, but supported the rebellion;  
the news-papers in America abound with insu-  
latory pieces; none but such are published. The speeches  
in the House of Lords and Commons have done great  
mischief, but nothing has done such injury as the Lords  
Protest. (9) Good God! can those gentlemen ever expect  
any pleasure in this world, or happiness in that to come?  
That Protest has made some thousands of Rebels in this  
country. During the several nights cannonading and  
bombardment of the town of Boston, most of the stores  
either fell close to, or passed very near my house; the  
morning we embarked, a twenty-four pounder struck the  
building. By the fit opportunity from Halifax I shall  
be more full as to the disposition of the army, &c."

I am dear Sir, &c.  
It is said of the celebrated Mr. Hecock, that when  
some of the Rebels complained of the partiality  
shown by the Congress to a great General, he replied,  
that the Congress could make a hundred Generals in a  
day, but that Washington was the work only of heaven.

From the LONDON EVENING POST.

TO THE PRINTER.  
THE following is copied verbatim from a letter from  
an officer under Gen. Howe, and your insertion of  
it in the London Evening Post, is requested as a favour  
by your constant readers and very humble servant, Z.  
S I R, Nantasket, March 25, 1776.

"BEFORE you receive this, you will probably have  
heard of our having evacuated Boston. Had we remain-  
ed there a few days longer, the whole town would have  
been laid in ashes, and the English army put to the sword.  
It was therefore wisely determined in a council of war to  
depart, and leave as at humbly given by General  
Washington, who declared that too much blood had al-  
ready been spilt in America. (1) The desperate manner in  
which the Rebels kept continually advancing, the ex-  
peditious and privacy with which they threw up batteries,  
and the judgment and resolution with which they sup-  
ported them, made it impossible to check their progress,  
and is a proof, among many others, that they are re-  
gardless of danger, and will sooner die than part with  
their liberties. X Even the destruction of Boston, and the  
unavoidable carnage of some of their friends and re-  
lations, could not restrain their impetuosity and fury.  
The late attack at Bunker's hill, the burning of Charlestown  
and Norfolk in Virginia, the Restraining Bill, and  
above all, the hiring foreign troops to delatate their  
country, has made them fierce, frantic and invincible. (2)  
To use their own words, such infernal acts of outrage  
ought not to be named; much less committed by Christians;  
they would reflect infamy upon a Nero or a Caligula,  
and cannot fail to draw down a judgment upon the au-  
thors and perpetrators of them. At all events, I must  
acknowledge that the whole of our orders and proceed-  
ings hitherto look as if the ministry had rather destroy  
every town in America, and massacre all the inhabitants,  
then refuse peace, or come to an accommodation; or  
why not repeal all the oppressive acts passed since the  
year 1763? Why condemn the petitions of the city of  
London? Reject every overture from the colonies, and  
every plan of conciliation from the wisest and best men  
in Great Britain? Well may our spirits fail, and our  
hearts bleed under such melancholy considerations. We  
are fighting against our friends, against the clearest con-  
viction, and against heaven, which manifestly frowns  
upon us. Whether we shall reach Halifax, the place to  
which we are bound, is uncertain, the season being so  
stormy and tempestuous, that we are not sure of favour-  
able weather a moment. Scripture somewhere says, that  
"a violent and bloody thirst man shall not live out  
half his days." Would to God this declaration was  
verified with respect to the Junco; for they, and they  
only, have to answer for the calamities which their in-  
flammatory and inhuman measures have brought upon  
both countries. X Excuse my warmth, our past sufferings  
have been great, our present danger is eminent; an in-  
supportable load of taxes is increasing, commerce is de-  
clining, the French and Spaniards are arming and re-  
joicing, and the lives of his Majesty's soldiers and sub-  
jects are things of too serious a nature to be sported with  
by any set of men under heaven. X I remain, your's  
(A) Sept. 9, 76.

From the LONDON GAZETTE of April 12, 1776.  
Translation of a letter from Lord Viscount Howe, to  
the Earl of Chatham, dated London, 17th  
5th, 1776.  
S I R,  
I have seen in your paper of the 17th of 12  
month an article from Lord Chatham, which might  
be unimpaired, erroneously so to believe that the  
Earl of Chatham has, in a private conversation, ex-  
posed himself in a favourable manner towards adminis-  
tration, and I am not at all disposed to conceive from whence  
he has written a report as false as it is injurious. But  
it is not upon the advice of Lord Chatham that I  
call our troops from America; not from the plea of  
accommodation which he proposed last year in the House of  
Lords, and which administration would not even  
to lie upon the table; nor from the present alarming  
situation of our public affairs, and surely it is not from  
the blind rage and insatiable thirst of our printers, which  
has engaged them to repeat every idea of accommodation  
with the Colonies, and of surrendering up the  
even to hire foreign mercenaries to butcher our  
subjects on the other side the Atlantic. The  
universal spirit of resistance which inspires the whole  
of America, is most driven to despair by the  
treatment they have received; for the enormous  
and ruinous expenses of this war, that have  
given occasion to so gross debts, a report, much less  
the step which Lord Chatham has so lately taken, of re-  
signing the commission which his son Lord Pitt, as  
minor, held in the 47th regiment in New York, that  
might not be sent to serve against the Americans. (4)

"The Earl of Chatham is even now (though he  
never did it upon any other occasion, not even when he was  
minister) going to preside at the printer of the Public  
Advertiser, for having in his paper the extract of a  
letter, pretended to be his, in which are attributed to him, re-  
sentments favourable to the fatal measures that are now  
carrying on by administration. X Lord Chatham's  
health not having allowed him to attend parliament this  
session, opinions, which he disapproves, and ideas which  
he abhors, have been impudently ascribed to him. And  
I am authorized Sir, to inform you, that all the sen-  
timents, and conversations, which the enemies of America,  
and the tools of government have ascribed and are daily  
ascribing to the Earl of Chatham, are gross and scandal-  
ous impositions upon the world." (22)

PHILADELPHIA, AUGUST 31.  
The following LETTERS and ORDERS are published  
by order of the House of Congress of the American States,  
Head Quarters, New-York, 17th August, 1776.

My Lord, (10)  
BEING authorized by Congress, as their Com-  
manders in every department are, to negotiate an ex-  
change of prisoners, and presuming, as well from the  
nature of your Lordship's command, as the information  
Gen. Howe has been pleased to honor me with, that the  
exchange in the next time will be subject to your Lord-  
ship's direction, I beg leave to propose the following  
mode of exchange for your Lordship's consideration, viz.  
"Officers for those of equal rank, and sailors for sailors."

If the above proposal should be agreeable to your Lord-  
ship, I am charged, in a particular manner, to exchange  
any officer belonging to the British navy, in our hands,  
and of equal rank, for Lieutenant Josiah, who was lately  
made prisoner in a ship retaken by the Cerberus frigate.  
The reason my Lord, of my being charged to propose  
the exchange of Lieut. Josiah in preference to that of any  
other officer, is that authentic intelligence has been re-  
ceived, that, regardless of his rank as an officer, he has  
not only been subjected to the duties of a common sea-  
man, but has experienced many other marks of indignity.

As a different line of conduct, my Lord, has been  
ever observed towards the officers of your navy, who  
have fallen into our hands, it becomes not only a matter  
of duty but of right in me to mention this to your Lord-  
ship, to the end that an inquiry may be made into the  
case above referred to. (4)

From your Lordship's charity for humanity, I am  
led to presume, that the hardships imposed on Lieut. Jo-  
siah are without either your knowledge or concern,  
and therefore most readily hope, that upon this representa-  
tion, your Lordship will join all officers, under your  
command, to pay such regard to the treatment of them  
that may fall into their hands, as their different ranks  
and situations may require, and such as your Lordship  
would wish to see continued by us to those who are al-  
ready in our power, or who may hereafter, by the  
chance of war, be subjected to it. I have the honor to  
be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant,  
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Howe, Ad-  
miral and Commander in Chief of the British  
navy in America. (Copy.)

Eagle off Staten-Island, 19th August, 1776.  
Sir,  
CONCURRING with the proposition you have been  
pleased to make in your favor of the seveneenth  
for an exchange of prisoners in my department, viz.  
"Officers for those of equal rank, and sailors for sailors,"  
I will take the liberty to propose an officer of the same  
rank with Lieut. Josiah, when he arrives.

The Cerberus being absent, I have no other infor-  
mation respecting the situation of Mr. Josiah, than what is  
communicated in your letter. But the matter, you may  
be assured, shall be inquired into, and every attention  
paid to the rules of propriety, as well as the dictates of  
humanity, on all such occasions.

Principles and conduct form the true distinction of  
rank amongst men; yet, without a competent habit in  
the manners of the world, they are too liable to meet  
with unmerited disregard. But insult and indignities to  
persons of whatever rank, who are become parties in  
these unhappy disputes, cannot be justified, and are, I  
persuade myself, as much disapproved of by every officer  
under my command, as they can never cease to be by me.  
I am, with great personal respect, Sir, your most obedi-  
ent humble servant.  
HOWE.

To General George Washington, &c. &c.  
(11) see index, under Naval Affairs, pa. 971, 976, &c.

see index, under Congress, Continental, & Provincial, & resolves. X see list of grievances, pa. 971, 976, &c.  
(a) see index, under Force. (1) see pa. 925, 1003. (2) see index, under Army British; & Men of War.  
D. H. See English Grievances, pa. 532. Vol. 2, pa. 540. &c. Crisis, pa. 749, &c.  
see index, under Naval Affairs, pa. 971, 976, &c.



## NEW HAVEN September 4.

By a series of a council of war, last Thursday night and Friday morning, the whole of our army then on Long Island returned to New-York, and brought off, in full, all their camp equipage, cannon, stores, &c. Their return was conducted with such secrecy, that it was not discovered by the enemy until after our army and baggage were got over, and only three persons, who left the island last in a bateau, fell into their hands. — Saturday and Sunday, our troops on Governor's island and Red Hook, evacuated our fortifications there, and brought off their cannon, &c. notwithstanding a very heavy fire from the enemy on Long Island, in which we lost some men.

We hear, that the main body of the enemy's army are now encamped near Hell Gate; they have transported a number of boats over land, and it is supposed they intend to cross and land a little above their encampment, and attack our army near King's Bridge, where we are making great preparations to receive them.

General Sullivan and Lord Sterling, who were both missing after the battle on the 27th ult. are both alive and well; the former having on his parole, obtained leave to go to Congress, last Saturday passed New-York on his way to Philadelphia. It is said his business is to obtain an exchange of himself and Lord Sterling for General Prescott a prisoner in Pennsylvania, and General M'Donald a prisoner in North Carolina. See p. 926.

Since our troops have evacuated Long Island, they have and regulate their friends to their country with the greatest severity. Col. Woodhull, late president of the New-York Congress for refusing to give up his fidelity, was wounded on the head with a cutlass, and had a bayonet thrust through his arm.

By some people who left Haverdemon last Monday, we hear, that the inhabitants of Suffolk county were to resign on their arms yesterday.

Our loss in the battle on the 27th ult. remains yet uncertain, the calculation being from 600 to 1000. Col. Huntington's regiment is said to have suffered much, there being missing 6 captains, 6 lieutenants, 21 sergeants, 2 drummers, and 126 rank and file.

Yesterday 64 women landed at Milford from Long Island, and we hear numbers are coming off daily to the Continent.

Col. Sedgwick has had his trial, and has been acquitted by a calling vote—he is yet held a prisoner. See 1000, 1009.

Capt. Redfield, of Killingworth, on his return from New-York, was taken by one of the frigates, who burnt his vessel, and after detaining him a few days, he was dismissed. There was another person in the vessel, whom they detained.

## ROSTON N. September 12.

Notice is hereby given, that the Lecture THIS DAY is turned into a DAY OF PRAYER, more especially on Account of the critical State of our military Operations.

Capt. Gill in a small Privateer Schooner from this Port, has taken and sent into Plymouth, a Brigantine from Antigua bound to Europe, laden with Rum and Sugars. She was first taken by a Commodore Privateer, but the People rose and retook her, and had her in Possession three Days before Capt. Gill came up with her. (1)

We hear a Privateer from Salem has taken a Brigantine from Cork, loaded with provisions for New-York, and sent her into some Port at the eastward. (1)

We hear from New-York, that the Roebuck of 44 guns, Capt. Parker, in attempting to get up East-River, thro' Hell-gate, got very roughly handled, being hull'd 15 times.

We hear 8 or 9 Prizes, West Indian, are taken and carried into Providence. (1)

We learn from undoubted authority, that the schooner Sally, Capt. Roach, which lately went from Piscataqua to Halifax, as a flag with some prisoners, was on her arrival there made a prize of, and all the hands put on board a man of war. Doubtful.

The Standing Militia of Connecticut, together with the Troop of Light Horse, on the East Side of Connecticut River, are ordered to march with the utmost Expedition to West Chester, near New-York, where it is imagined the Enemy will make an Attempt to land from Long Island. (1)

According to the Allowance of Bread as set by the Select Men, a 4d. loaf of white Brick 1. oz. d.  
Bread, must weigh 1 4 4  
A 4d. loaf of white Bread. 1 7 3  
Billet of a Copper price. 3 14  
A 4d. loaf Brown Bread 3 4th Wheat 2 4  
A 4th Rye Meal.  
A 4d. do. not above half Indian Meal. 3

Extract of a Letter from an officer in Col. Atiles' Battalion, of Pennsylvania, August 27.

"Yesterday about 120 of our men went out as a guard to a place called Red Lion, on Long Island; about eleven o'clock at night the sentries discovered two men coming up a water-melon patch, upon which our men fired upon them; the enemy then retreated, and about one o'clock advanced with an air of 3000 men, and endeavored to surround our guard; but they being watchful gave them two or three fires and retreated to alarm the remainder of the Battalion (except one Lieutenant and about 12 men who have not been heard of as yet). About four o'clock this morning the alarm was given, by beating to arms, when the remainder of our battalion, accompanied by the Delaware and Maryland battalions, went to the place, where our men retreated from. About a quarter of a mile on this side, we saw the enemy when we got into the woods (our bat-

talion being the advance guard) amidst the incessant fire of their field pieces loaded with grape shot, which continued till 6 o'clock. The Marylanders on their left flank and on their right, kept up a constant fire amidst all their cannon, and saw several of them fall; but they being too many for us we retreated a little, and took a wide stand. Our Lieut. Col. Parry was shot through the head, and I was under the necessity of retreating with him to this place, in order to secure his effects; since which I have heard the enemy are within 600 yards of our lines; which I think will cost them some number of men before they gain them."

Extra 2 of a letter from Hara's Hook, near New-York, dated September 2, 1776.

"If it was in my power I would inform you of the transactions of the army here, but it is impossible. I will attempt in part. I arrived here the day the troops landed on Long Island. After the arrival of the British for seven days, General Washington commanded for the four last in person; made the grand retreat perhaps ever made, not a man lost. And although we were surrounded by the enemy, they did not discover our movements until sunrise. We have lost about eighty killed, one hundred and thirty wounded and between four and five hundred taken prisoners; among whom is Major General Sullivan, Brigadier General Lord Sterling and one Field Officer. Capt. Johnson of the Artillery directed his wounds; he behaved like a hero, as did most of the Officers and Soldiers."

"I am now within musket shot of the enemy's encampment, and in hourly expectation of an attack. General Sullivan fell off for the Congress yesterday, with proposals for a conference between a Committee of them and Lord Howe. They begin to see our importance, and consider us as an Independent State. Seventeen hundred and sixty-three is done with. An alliance and our trade is what they propose. Our glory'd General says it may be only a first to lull us into obscurity; but by this time they ought to know that they have not the ministry of Great Britain to deal with, but the wisdom of the AMERICAN STATES, and their General. The army is now formed in three Grand Divisions, and in never better situation."

We have received no Papers printed in New-York since last Thursday evening.

It appearing to the Town at their late Meeting, that there were but few Persons then sick with the Small-Pox, the Committee who had visited the several Wards were directed to visit them, and cause that such Houses as were unoccupied and suspected of being infected, be well smoked and cleaned; as also to make strict Enquiry, how the Orders given the Inhabitants for cleaning the Houses that had been infected have been complied with. The Selectmen were also directed, to put the Resolves of the General Court and the several Laws now in Force relative to the Small-Pox into immediate and strict Execution, and to take the same Measures to rid the Town of Infection as has been practised to prevent that Disorder from spreading in the Town.

In Compliance with the above, the Selectmen are determined to remove any Persons who may be taken with the Small-Pox, and to prosecute those who neglect to give Information of any in their Families who have that Disorder.

Boston, Sept. 12, By Order of the Selectmen,  
1776. WILLIAM COOPER, Town-Clerk.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of THOMAS WHITTING, Esq. late of Concord, deceased intestate, are desired to make immediate payment to JONAS HEYWOOD, Esq. of said Concord, Attorney to THOMAS WHITTING, Administrator of said estate. And all persons who have any demands on said estate, are desired to bring them in to said HEYWOOD, or Mr. EBENEZER HUBBARD of the same town, they being appointed Commissioners by the honorable Judge of Probate to examine said accounts.

ALL persons that have any demands against the estate of STEPHEN CHAPMAN, deceased, of Marblehead, are desired to bring in their claims to ELIZABETH CHAPMAN, Administratrix on said estate. And all persons indebted to said estate, are desired to make speedy payment to said Administratrix.  
Marblehead, March 12, 1776.

## ONE SHILLING Reward.

RAN away from the subscriber, an apprentice boy, named WILLIAM LEFAVER, about five feet three inches high. Whoever will take up said run-away, and return him to his master, shall have the above reward, and no charges paid, nor thanks given.  
JOHN JENKINS.

Salem, August 26, 1776.

TAKEN up last Tuesday in Reading, North Parish, a red roan MARE, about thirteen hands and a half high, supposed to be about twelve years old, with leather fetters on. The owner proving his property and paying charges, may have her again by applying to ABRAHAM LEWIS FOSTER, in said Reading.

TO BE SOLD BY  
ENOCH GREENLEAF,  
At Sudbury, next door to JOHN NOYES, Esq. near Barker's (formerly Bryan's) tavern.  
A VARIETY of ENGLISH GOODS,  
Also — at the same place is to be SOLD, by  
GREENLEAF and FIELD,  
NEW-England and West-India Rum, Brandy, Malaga and other Wines, Leaf and Brown Sugar, with most kinds of West-India GOODS, as low as the times will admit of. — Also, — Barr Iron, Hollow Ware, Grindstones, &c.

N. B. All persons indebted to the late company of AMORY and GREENLEAF, are requested immediately to pay their balances to said Greenleaf. 1008, 1009, 1010.

Just published, and now selling by JOHN GILL, in Queen-Street,  
(Price Two Shillings)

THE FALL OF (6)  
BRITISH TYRANNY,

OR,  
AMERICAN LIBERTY TRIUMPHANT.  
THE FIRST CAMPAIGN.

ATRAGI-COMEDY, of Five Acts, containing twenty-six Scenes, among which are the following, viz.

A pleasing scene between Roger and Dick, two shepherds near Lexington.

Clarissa, &c. A very moving scene on the death of Doctor Warren, &c. in a chamber near Boston, the morning after the battle at Bunker's Hill.

A humorous scene between the Boatwain and a Sailor on board a man of war, near Norfolk in Virginia.

Two very laughable scenes between the Boatwain, two Sailors, and the Cook, exhibiting specimens of seafaring oratory, and peculiar eloquence of those sons of Neptune, touching Tories, Convicts and black Regulars; and between Lord Kidnapper and the Boatwain.

A very black scene between Lord Kidnapper and Major Cudgjo.

A religious scene between Lord Kidnapper, Chaplain, and the Captain.

A scene, the Lord Mayor, &c. going to St. James's with the Address.

A droll scene, a council of war in Boston, between Lord Boston, Admiral Combition, Elbow-Room, Mr. Caper, General Clinton, and Earl Piercy.

A diverting scene between a Whig and a Tory.

A spirited scene between General Prescott, and Colonel Allen.

A shocking scene, a dungeon, between Colonel Allen and an officer of the guard.

Two affecting scenes in Boston, after the flight of the Regulars from Lexington, between Lord Boston, messenger, and officers of the guard.

A patriotic scene in the camp at Cambridge, between the Generals Washington, Lee, and Putnam, &c. &c.

With a dedication, preface, a Vrefs of the Goddess of Liberty to the Congress, dramatic persons, prologue, epilogue, and a song in praise of King Tammany, the American Saint.

A truly dramatic performance, interspersed with wit, humour, burlesque, and serious matter, which cannot fail of affording abundant entertainment to readers of every disposition. (6) on

The whole comprised in seventy-one pages octavo, and a good type. Allowance to those who buy a number.

JUST PUBLISHED, and now selling by SAMUEL HALL in School-Street, the second edition of AN EASY PLAN OF DISCIPLINE for all MILITIA. BY TIMOTHY PICKERING.

STRAYED or Stolen a red Mare, with a white Spot on her near shoulder, and the mark of a cut on the off Shoulder, and her hind Feet white half way the Flank, about 14 Hands high, and about 8 Years old. Whoever will take up said Mare and convey her to Daniel Haller, in Boston, shall have Two Dollars reward, and all necessary charges paid, and no questions asked.  
Boston, Sept. 10, 1776.

WANTED a Quantity of Wood-ASH SALT S. CASH given for Wood-Ash SALTS, Merchantable and unmerchantable Pot-Ash, by ROBERT GOULD, at his Store in Back-Street, near the Mill-Bridge, or at his Pearting Works near Charlestown-Ferry, the preference is given to those Ashes newly made, and the Price according to the Quality of each.

State of the Massachusetts-Bay } Lincoln, ff.

ALL persons claiming property in the schooner FREEDOM, burthen about twenty eight tons, a JAMES KELLY, master, taken upon the High Seas, by the private armed schooner, FRIENDS, brought into said district, labelled before me, and said to be the property of some of the subjects of the King of Great-Britain, may appear at the maritime court, to be holden for said district, in the East Precinct of Pownallborough, on Tuesday the first day of October, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the said schooner Freedom, with her cargo and appurtenances, should not be condemned.  
TIMOTHY LANGDON, Judge of said Court.

ALL Persons indebted to, or have any Demands on the Estate of Thomas Stephenson, late of Cohasset Merchant deceased, are desired to bring in their Accounts to John Boier of said Cohasset, Administrator on said Estate, in order for a speedy Settlement.  
Cohasset, Aug. 27th 1776.

see index, under Army of the United States. see p. 1001. 9 see indexes, under Army British.  
see index, under New York. see index, under Congress Continental. x see indexes, under Men of War. (2) p. 926. (1) see index, under Naval Affairs. (3) see declaration, p. 974. (4) see p. 1212.



